3: Read E-5 (1935-1939)1960
FR5 Ngoni FR5

951 old Ngoni families, and shining like marble, as did the hut
and veranda floors. On this polished space, or else on the
574 veranda, the child's grandmother sat when callers had been
announced, and from that vantage-point she could command
the entrance through the surrounding fence, and agree to
receive callers who had asked for admittance. Also in front
447 of the hut was another drying platform which was large
343 enough to offer shelter from the sun in hot weather; the
[335] dovecot where the 'royal pigeons' lived if the household was
[554] of the royal clan or distinguished enough to aspire to keep-
ing pigeons. Off to one side was a hut for the goats at night
and another, hoisted up on a platform, for the poultry. On
the other side of the main hut were the grain stores, built up
on low platforms. The maize stores were up to ten feet high
and ten feet in diameter in these big households, and well-to-
[552] do women would have four or five of them bulging with
maize cobs. There were smaller circular mudded bins for
ground-nuts and millet. Behind the hut were two or three
small huts where some of the helpers slept, and one of them
951 was generally a kitchen hut. Piles of wood, and bundles of
[284] thatching grass bound neatly with bark rope, were stacked
against the fence.

There were innumerable objects around the compound of
351 interest to the small child prowling about. Two or three tall
412 wooden pounding mortars, so heavy that they could not
be lifted and had to be trundled on their circular base from
one place to another, stood near the kitchen hut, or were
moved to the front if the women pounding had to watch
children there. There were much smaller mortars for pound-
ing ground-nuts, kept when not in use in the fenced-in
veranda; and one or more large flat stones for grinding finger
millet and bulrush millet. Baskets were of all sizes and shapes
351 from the small round food basket with a lid in which father's
416 food was carried to the kraal gate, to the wide shallow win-
nowing baskets, the deep round carrying baskets some as
large as two feet in diameter, and the porous baskets used as